

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means; wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, and a third voice transmission function of synthesizing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the resultant to the interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function includes a callee voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the callee terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected;

the second voice transmission function includes a caller voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the caller terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a detecting function of detecting a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal in a voice signal input from the interpreter terminal, and an interpreter voice selective suppressing function of suppressing a voice not selected by the selection signal detected by the detecting function, among the voice from the interpreter

terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission function, and the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the second voice transmission function.

Claim 15 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means; wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of switching between the voice from the callee terminal and the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, the second voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, and a third voice transmission function of synthesizing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the result to the interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function includes a function of intercepting the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the voice from the interpreter terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected;

the second voice transmission function includes a function of intercepting the voice from the caller terminal and transmitting the voice from the interpreter terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a detecting function of detecting a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal in a voice signal input from the interpreter terminal, and an interpreter voice selective suppressing function of suppressing a voice not selected by the selection signal detected by the detecting function, among the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission function, and the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the second voice transmission function.

Claim 16 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal and the interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means; wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal such that a receiving party can listen to the voices in right and left channels separately, a second voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal such that a receiving party can listen to the voices in right and left channels separately, and a third voice transmission function of multiplexing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the resultant to the interpreter terminal such that a receiving party can listen to the voices in right and left channels separately; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a detecting function of detecting a selection signal for selecting either the caller terminal or the callee terminal in a voice signal input from the interpreter terminal, and an interpreter voice selective suppressing function of suppressing a voice not selected by the selection signal detected by the detecting function, among the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission function, and the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the second voice transmission function.

Claim 17 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 14, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, and the voice from the interpreter terminal, and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 18 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 14, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of an interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the interpreter, and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 19 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 18, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 20 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 18, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 21 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 18, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of

calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 22 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 15, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, and the voice from the interpreter terminal, and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 23 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 15, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of an interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the interpreter, and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 24 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 25 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 22, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 26 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 22, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 27 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 16, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, and the voice from the interpreter terminal, and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 28 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 16, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of an interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the interpreter, and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 29 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 27, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 30 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 27, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 31 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 27, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 32 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal, the first interpreter terminal and the second interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means; wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the second interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, a third voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal, and a fourth voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the caller terminal to the second interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function includes a callee voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the callee terminal when the voice from the first interpreter terminal is detected; and

the second voice transmission function includes a caller voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the caller terminal when the voice from the second interpreter terminal is detected.

Claim 33 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal, the first interpreter terminal and the second interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means; wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the caller terminal and a voice from the second interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, a third voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal, and a fourth voice

transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the caller terminal to the second interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function includes a function of intercepting the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the voice from the first interpreter terminal when the voice from the first interpreter terminal is detected; and

the second voice transmission function includes the function of intercepting the voice from the caller terminal and transmitting the voice from the second interpreter terminal when the voice from the second interpreter terminal is detected.

Claim 34 (new): A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the caller terminal, the callee terminal, the first interpreter terminal and the second interpreter terminal connected by the connecting means, wherein

the communication means includes a first voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal such that the receiving party can listen to the voices in right and left channels separately, a second voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the caller terminal and a voice from the second interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal such that the receiving party can listen to the voices in right and left channels separately, a third voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal, and a fourth voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the caller terminal to the second interpreter terminal.

Claim 35 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 32, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, the voice from the first

interpreter terminal, and the voice from the second interpreter terminal, and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 36 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 32, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of the first interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the first interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the first interpreter, a function of extracting the terminal number of the second interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee acquired, a function of calling the second interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the second interpreter, and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 37 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 36, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 38 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 36, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 39 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 36, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 40 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 33, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, the voice from the first interpreter terminal, and the voice from the second interpreter terminal; and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 41 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 33, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of the first interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the first interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the first interpreter, a function of extracting the terminal number of the second interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee acquired, a function of calling the second interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the second interpreter,

and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 42 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 41, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 43 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 41, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 44 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 41, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 45 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 34, wherein the communication means includes a function of recording the voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee terminal, the voice from the first interpreter terminal, and the voice from the second interpreter terminal; and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

Claim 46 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 34, wherein the connecting means includes an interpreter registration table including at least language types for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system further includes a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal, a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted, a function of extracting the terminal number of the first interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired, a function of calling the first interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the first interpreter, a function of extracting the terminal number of the second interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee acquired, a function of calling the second interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the second interpreter, and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

Claim 47 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 46, wherein the interpreter registration table includes selection information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal, and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

Claim 48 (new): The telephone interpretation system according to claim 46, wherein the interpreter registration table includes availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means includes a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

Claim 49 (new): The telephone interpretation system according claim 46, wherein the interpreter registration table includes accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means includes a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.